

Message Text

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20

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-11 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /081 W

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P R 201125Z JAN 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7637

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF PINS CB FR TH

SUBJECT: CAMBODIANS RETURNING TO THEIR OWN COUNTRY

REF: STATE 011844

1. MISOFF MET WITH UNHCR OFFICIALS JAN 19 TO DISCUSS
SUBJECT REF, AND FOUND THEM WELL APPRISED OF SITUATION.

2. UNHCR REPS STATED THEY COULD NOT CONFIRM PRECISE
NUMBER OF CAMBODIANS WHO HAVE REPATRIATED FROM FRANCE VIA
PEKING. HOWEVER, THEIR ATTENTION FIRST DRAWN TO MATTER
WHEN DELEGATION OF FOUR CAMBODIANS APPEARED AT THEIR PARIS
OFFICE SOME WEEKS AGO TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE TOWARD REPATRIATION.
AT THAT TIME UNHCR LEARNED THAT 40 CAMBODIANS HAD REPATRIATED
FROM PARIS IN DECEMBER VIA CHINESE NATIONAL AIRLINES TO PEKING
WITH ASSISTANCE OF GRUNK MISSION IN PARIS. SINCE CAMBODIAN
GOVERNMENT HAD NOT RESPONDED THUS FAR TO UNHCR OFFER TO ASSIST IN
REPATRIATION OF CAMBODIAN NATIONALS, AND AFTER BRIEF
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CONTACT WITH GRUNK MISSION, UNHCR PARIS ADVISED

FOUR CAMBODIANS (WHO HAD ALREADY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH MISSION) TO CONTINUE THEIR NEGOTIATIONS FOR REPATRIATION WITH GRUNK PARIS. UNHCR HAS HAD NO RPT NO FURTHER CONTACT WITH THIS OPERATION. HOWEVER, IT SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED THAT THREE OF FOUR HAD SINCE REPATRIATED, WHILE FOURTH IS WORKING IN PARIS TO EARN HIS FARE FOR FLIGHT TO PEKING. UNHCR UNDERSTANDS THAT CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT FUNDS PASSAGE FROM PEKING TO PHNOM PENH. (OF INCIDENTAL INTEREST, AT LEAST THE TWO SPOKESMEN FOR THE GROUP OF FOUR CARRIED VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PAPERS WHICH HAD BEEN PREPARED AT CAMP PENDLETON, ACCORDING TO UNHCR).

3. UNHCR OFFICIALS EXPLAINED THAT PROBLEM OF THEIR INTERVENTION AT THIS POINT WITH CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT IS SAME AS THAT WITH VIETNAMESE, NAMELY THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAVE INDICATED THAHEY ARE NOT RPT NOT PREPARED AT THIS TIME TO ACCEPT RETURNEES BECAUSE OF UNSETTLED DOMESTIC SITUATION (GENEVA 0127 AND STATE 011665). NONETHELESS, UHCR HAS ADVISED THAT IT PLANS TO MAKE APPROACH THROUGH GRUNK MISSION PARIS "WITHIN NEXT DAY OR TWO" TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEIR GOOD OFFICES MIGHT NOW BE EMPLOYED FOR THIS PURPOSE AND, IF SO, WHETHER IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN EFFECTING RETURN OF THOSE CAMBODIANS NOW AT "HALFWAY HOUSE".

4. IT MAY BE OF INTEREST TO DEPARTMENT THAT UNHCR NOW CARRIES ON ITS ROLES FOLLOWING NUMBERS OF CAMBODIANS DESIRING REPATRIATION BY LOCATIONS:

BANGKOK-10
SINGAPORE-66
THE HAGUE-2
THAILAND (OUTSIDE BANGKOK)-126
LAOS-5
SUB-TOTAL-209
USA-145
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TOTAL-354

5. WILL FOLLOW UP AND REPORT RESULTS OF ABOVE CONTACT. DALE

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